

this humble speech, let go his prisoner, thinking it would be a deed unworthy of his courage to kill an animal so mean and so little able to defend itself.

2. It happened, some time after, that the lion, ranging through the forest, fell into the nets of the hunters. He began to roar with all his might; but it was impossible for him to free himself. The rat knew by the roaring of the lion that he was caught. He ran to help him, in return for having spared his life. He began at once to gnaw the net, and gave the lion the means of getting clear of it and of running away.

3. *Moral.*—The great often get help from those who seem the least able to give it to them.

THE WILD BOAR AND THE ASS.

1. An ass having by chance met a wild boar, began to laugh at and insult him.

2. The wild boar, shaking with anger and grinding his teeth, wished at first to tear him to pieces; but thinking again that a miserable ass was not worth his anger and revenge, he checked himself.

3. "Wretch," said he, "I should punish thee well if thou wert worth my trouble; but I do not wish to stain myself with the blood of such a vile creature. Thou art only an ass, and thy meanness saves thee from my blows and spares thy life." After having taunted him thus, he let him go.

4. *Moral.*—Contempt is the only revenge which we should take on a fool and a coward; besides, the victory that we gain over a mean and weak enemy is too easy, and does us no honour.
